



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Sylvia Vanderspek
Chief, Air Quality Planning Branch
Air Quality Planning and Science Division
California Air Resources Board
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812

Dear Chief Vanderspek:

This letter provides a response to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) and California Air Resource Board (CARB) exceptional event (EE) Initial Notification Summary Information emailed to the EPA on April 12, 2021, regarding exclusion of 24-hour PM_{2.5} data affected by EEs. The Initial Notification submittal stated that emissions from wildfires in August, September, and October 2020 caused exceedances of the 1997 24-hour PM_{2.5} National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) at the following monitoring sites within the San Joaquin Valley PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Area: Stockton-Hazelton (AQS ID: 06-077-1002), Manteca (AQS ID: 06-077-2010), Modesto-14th Street (AQS ID: 06-099-0005), Turlock (AQS ID: 06-099-0006), Fresno-Foundry (AQS ID: 06-019-2016¹), Clovis-Villa (AQS ID: 06-019-5001), Hanford-Irwin (AQS ID: 06-031-1004), Corcoran-Patterson (AQS ID: 06-031-0004), and Bakersfield-Airport (Planz) (AQS ID: 06-029-0016).

Based on discussions with SJVAPCD and CARB, the EPA has determined that data identified in the Initial Notification submittal may affect anticipated regulatory actions for the 1997 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS. The EPA requests that CARB formally submit the demonstration for the critical events in August 2020 affecting the 2018-2020 design values no later than May 14, 2021. This deadline replaces the May 1, 2021 deadline stated in EPA's previous Initial Notification response, signed March 9, 2021. Note that in order for the EPA to receive a submittal by May 14, 2021, SJVAPCD may need to submit the demonstration to CARB by May 7, 2021. The EPA also recommends that CARB consider early certification of 2020 PM_{2.5} data for sites located in the San Joaquin Valley PM_{2.5} Nonattainment Area.

¹ In the Initial Notification, the Fresno-Foundry AQS ID is listed as both 06-019-2016 and 06-019-2020. The correct AQS ID is 06-019-2016.

These deadlines and recommendations are based on the EPA's anticipated timeframes for action on the submitted PM_{2.5} attainment plan for the 1997 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS in the San Joaquin Valley Nonattainment Area. CARB may submit the EE demonstration to the EPA concurrent with its initiation of the public comment period, provided CARB subsequently submits all public comments received and CARB's responses thereto. We appreciate the close coordination between CARB, SJVAPCD, and EPA to date, and encourage continued coordination throughout the development and submittal of this demonstration.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact me at (415) 972-3183, Gwen Yoshimura at (415) 947-4134, or my staff lead, Dena Vallano, at (415) 972-3134.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth J. Adams
Director, Air and Radiation Division

cc (via email): Michael Benjamin, CARB
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